

SENATOR WARNER: Inquire whether or not, there isn't any question that the amendment is germane to the bill, but I don't see how it can be germane to the committee amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Okay, any discussion on the germaneness? Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, the committee amendments, as I understand them, change the way in which the commissioner will have the opportunity to adjust the rates. My amendment is dealing with the striking of that particular language in providing the commissioner that authority. I can live with it or whatever decision you want to make. But I wanted to offer this policy decision shift to the body. It is a matter of votes, if you want to get down to it. But I will live with whatever the Chair decides to do. But I do think it does address the tax commissioner's authority, and that is the provision that I'm most interested in.

SENATOR CARSTEN: On the germaneness issue, Senator Johnson, did you wish to speak to the germaneness issue?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, Senator Carsten, I do. I have absolutely no objection or reservation about Senator Johnson's amendment. It certainly ought to be discussed. It clearly is germane to the bill. It truly is not relevant to the committee amendments because the committee amendments deal with some technicalities regarding commissioner public hearing, et cetera. But they don't deal with the issue that Senator Johnson does raise. Perfectly appropriate amendment. It should be offered to the bill, though, and not to the committee amendments.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Any other discussion on the committee...or the germaneness of the Johnson amendment to the committee amendments? If not, it is going to be the decision of the Chair that the Rod Johnson amendment to the committee amendments is not germane, but they are germane to the bill. That would be my decision, I believe, at this point. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I will not oppose the Chair's decision. I will simply offer the amendment at the appropriate time.

SENATOR CARSTEN: I think that would be appropriate, Senator Johnson, and appreciate your cooperation. Now we're back on the